

PACIFIC POWER • UTAH POWER

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ELECTRIC OPERATIONS GROUP

October 16, 1990

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WATER RIGHTS
CEDAR CITY

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WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

Mr. Robert L. Morgan, P.E., State Engineer
Utah Division of Water Rights
1636 West North Temple, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3156

Reference: **COMPLAINT ON UP&L'S POWER
CANAL ON THE SANTA CLARA RIVER**

Dear Mr. Morgan:

This letter is Utah Power & Light Company's response to the letter dated September 7, 1990, from Mr. Rick T. Rosenberg regarding failure of the Santa Clara Power Canal above Upper Sand Cove Reservoir.

On August 6, plant employees indicated that the scheduled pipeline repair work below Upper Sand Cove Reservoir was reviewed with the river commissioner; and it was agreed at that time to store all canal flow in Upper Sand Cove Reservoir while the pipeline repairs were made.

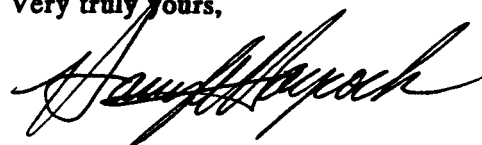
UP&L became aware of the canal leak on the morning of August 21. Company employees were at the site at approximately 9:30 a.m. to repair the leak. They were unable to repair the leak with a backhoe because the area adjacent to the canal was extremely muddy, so the leak was repaired with sand bags by 11:30 a.m. On August 23, UP&L employees were able to use the backhoe to make a permanent repair of the canal.

At the time the leak upstream from the reservoir was encountered and repaired, water from Upper Sand Cove Reservoir was being released to fill the pipeline to Sand Cove Plant. Thus, any lowering of Upper Sand Cove Reservoir at that time was due to filling the pipeline, not due to the canal leak. Prior to the canal break, Upper Sand Cove was full but was not spilling. No water was being released from Lower Sand Cove Reservoir, because no water was flowing in.

It was unfortunate that this situation occurred; however, canal failures are not uncommon in any canal system. In the future, UP&L will try to minimize this type of problem by scheduling more maintenance work during the non-irrigation season. Work plans affecting the flows in the canal will be reviewed with the river commissioner. The canal will be inspected closely during those unusual circumstances when flows are not constant along the canal due to the maintenance. Generally, the reservoirs are maintained at a fairly constant elevation during normal operation. The concerns of downstream irrigators will be taken into account when the work is scheduled.

If you have further concerns, please do not hesitate to call us.

Very truly yours,



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